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For one must remember that the Latin of botanic names is not classic Latin in many cases, and that the application of quantitative rules in the determination of accent is in such cases merely arbitrary.

I have hesitated for some months about publishing this paper, but it has seemed to me at last that, if the question of a spoken language of botany is to be raised, it is important to define such a language at its outset; and as I have felt that the definition here set forth is one most likely to obviate that potential store of silent synonyms, which must otherwise come upon us, I have suggested it as a basis for improvement.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

** Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as a proof of good faith.

On request in advance, one hundred copies of the number containing his communication will be furnished free to any correspondent.

The Editor will be glad to publish any queries consonant with the character of the journal.

The Ling on the Pacific Slope.

THE ling (*Lota lota maculosa*) is found over a wide territory of North America east of the Rocky Mountains. I have taken it in the Great Lakes, at Winnipeg, in the Red River of the North, and it was reported to me at the head waters of the Saskatchewan, where it is said to ascend the smaller streams during the spawning season in such numbers that many could easily be killed by a single discharge of a shot gun. I have also taken it in the Missouri at Craig, Montana. In short, it is found in all three of the large water basins of the Atlantic slope—the Saskatchewan, St. Lawrence and Mississippi.

At Golden, B.C., on the Columbia, I was told by a fisherman that in Autumn he had caught ling five feet long on night lines, but I secured no further evidence of their occurrence in the Columbia system during my explorations in that region in August, 1892. When I reached Sicamous on Shuswap Lake in the Fraser system I was at once asked if I had secured any ling, of which they had some for dinner. As described to me, this ling appears to be a species of *Lota*. I did not succeed in getting any specimens at this place, as the Indians, who alone knew where to take them, had left on the morning of my arrival.

Since then I have received a large specimen from Golden, B.C., on the Columbia, which was secured for me by Mr. Green, manager of the Queen's Hotel at that place. A comparison of this specimen with one from Lake Michigan does not show any specific differences. The known distribution of *Lota lota maculosa* is therefore extended to the Pacific slope.

CARL H. EIGENMANN.

Bloomington, Ind.

The Native Calendar of Central America and Mexico.

I THINK it necessary to notice one or two errors in Dr. Brinton's article in *Science*, Feb. 16, for it seems he has made precisely the mistake he attributes to me. But first it is proper to say that, as his reference to Dr. Seler's explanation of *chic-chan* relates to a different work from that referred to by me, my criticism on this particular point was inapplicable.

If Dr. Brinton will examine my article in the *American Anthropologist*, he will see that my reference to the month names is limited expressly to those of the tribes of the Maya stock, hence his reference to the Nahautl names is out of place. It would be well for reviewers to read carefully and make themselves acquainted with that which they are reviewing.

And again Dr. Brinton has wholly missed the point in my reference to the Java week. I certainly thought it

was so clear that a person with but half an eye would see that the singular fact alluded to was that the Javanese, in assigning the days of their week and certain colors to the points of space, like the Zunis assigned a *mixed color* to the focus. A similar assignment of mixed color to the centre is seen on plate 12, *Borgian Codex*.

Further comparison of the Polynesian calendar with that of Mexico and Central America will be seen in a Bulletin now in press and soon to be issued.

CYRUS THOMAS.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Nagualism. A Study in Native American Folk-Lore and History. By DANIEL G. BRINTON, A.M., M.D., LL.D., D. Sc., Professor of American Archaeology and Linguistics in the University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, David McKay. 1894, 65 p., 8°, \$1.00.

"NAGUALISM" is a word which the reader will search for in vain, even in the Century Dictionary, although Dr. Brinton points out that it has been in occasional use in English and American books for seventy years past. It means the doctrines taught by the sect or secret society of the "Nagualists," who for more than three hundred years have perpetuated in Mexico and Central America many of the superstitions and rites of their ancestral heathenism, strongly infused with a debased Christianity; which did not prevent a cordial hatred of that religion and of the race which introduced it from being a cardinal maxim in their creed.

The Nagualists were also adepts in occult art, as skilful jugglers as those of India, telepaths, mesmerists and were-wolves. They had a secret slang or *argot* of their own, full of dark references and symbolic expressions, examples of which are given. The scenes of their mystic rites were glens and caves, where they held licentious orgies or ascetic penances. In the arts of divination and medicine they were acknowledged masters, and their horoscopes, founded on the ancient native calendar, were accepted with blind faith.

Historically, they played an important part in the history of the country, as they were the instigators of nearly all the revolts of the natives against the Spanish power, a fact overlooked by previous writers, but clearly enough shown in this volume. One of the most remarkable facts brought out is the prominence accorded to women in this secret order. They seem to have been the leading spirits, entrusted with its fullest powers, and often to have controlled its most momentous actions.

It will be seen that the subject of this monograph is an entirely new one, and of unusual interest.

Text-Book of Comparative Geology. By E. KAYSER, Ph.D., Professor of Geology in the University of Marbury. Translated and Edited by PHILIP LAKE, M.A., F.G.S. London, Swan, Sonnenschein and Co.; New York, Macmillan and Co. 1893, 596 illustrations, 426 p., \$4.50

AMONG the numerous valuable additions to geological literature in the year 1893, probably none will be better appreciated by English-speaking readers than this new text-book of comparative geology. The subject is one much misunderstood and undervalued accordingly, not only by the English geologist, for whom the above work is primarily intended, but also here in America. It is frequently regarded as vain to attempt to correlate palaeontological zones, and to compare closely one region with another, yet it is safe to say that without some such broad conception of the science little real progress can be made. It is truly remarked by the translator in his preface that it is only to the use of the comparative